

Letters from Militants

The Militant Club in Chicago

CHICAGO.—In one of the recent issues of the Militant a short notice appeared that a new organization was founded under the name "Friends of the Militant Club." The unique position of the Left Opposition in the revolutionary movement and its righteous cause so eloquently espoused in the columns of its weekly organ the Militant, are attracting to it more and more sympathizers and friends but the host of followers is still very small to be an adequate support to such an important paper. While the official press of the C. P. is always in dire need of financial assistance, and we have always gladly and generously contributed to its existence, still it is able to continue to function because of the help rendered to it by its numerous subsidiary organizations. The Militant, on the other hand, is not only always in very precarious financial straits but without any aid whatsoever except the valiant struggle and sacrifices of its collaborators and by the aid of its restricted number of readers. In fact the financial circumstances are so bad that we are in continuous fear that the next issues will have to be suspended or the paper discontinued altogether. Considering this sad state of affairs, a group of sympathizers and friends have been inspired with an idea to found an independent organization which would take into its fold men and women radically inclined and get them acquainted gradually with the principle issues involved, thus creating a new medium of support for the Militant. The purpose of this organization is therefore twofold: (1) Cultural or educational for its members and visitors by arranging bi-monthly lectures on various topics such as of a political, economic, social, literary, scientific and philosophic nature. Also to stimulate collateral reading. The lectures and discussions to be conducted on a free democratic basis, allowing everybody to participate and express his or her idea whatever it may be; (2) to render financial and moral support to the Militant in following manner: (a) by obtaining subscriptions for the paper; (b) by selling the paper at all meetings of the organization and at all other occasions; (c) by promoting the sale of various radical and other kind of literature; (d) by arranging public affairs such as lectures, concerts and other forms of social and entertainments. Any person regardless of sex, color, nationality or race is admissible as a member into the organization, provided he or she is in accord with the following prerequisites set forth in the preamble: (1) he or she must believe in and recognize the class struggle of the workers of the world; (2) he or she must be in sympathy with the U. S. S. R., the first fatherland of the working class. In its brief existence we were able so far to enroll about 25 members, but the increasing number of visitors at each meeting gives great hopes that more and more sympathizers will join us and thus succeed to build up a substantial aid to the Militant. Would not this attempt to come to aid the Militant be an inspiration to the many readers and sympathizers in other communities throughout the country to imitate us and start building up similar Clubs under the same name and naturally with the same purpose so that this beginning may develop into a widely spread national organization? Let us try. —R.

ion at its first national convention, in accepting the identical scale of Walker-Lewis, are using every method to get the Taylorville mines operating under the Lewis machine. They fear and know that the P. M. of A. is going to be a rank and file union—a union based on the principles of the class struggle. The P. M. of A. has met this new attempt of the bosses to open the mines in Christian County with mass picketing on an unheard-of scale, in Illinois. Thousands of miners with their wives and children are to be found on the picket line every morning at 5 o'clock, hundreds are arrested every day and conveyed by military guard to the County line. The women in this strike are displaying marvelous courage and militancy. For the first time in the history of the coal miners' union their women folk are organized in auxiliaries of the P. M. of A. In many strike centers they have established community kitchens and are learning how to run them on the cooperative principle which will be a feature of our future society. They face tear gas, bayonets and bullets with an unconquerable spirit, as too well do they know the misery and privations they also had to endure under the corrupt, degenerate U. M. W. of A which they have decided to rid themselves of. It would be incorrect to say that the P. M. of A. sold out, as the official party has said. They have made an unnecessary retreat, due to pressure from conservative elements in the union and principally due to the lack of an organized Left wing. The P. M. of A. is still a healthy organization with rank and file control of leadership—and in all probability will carry out the traditions which gave it birth. A continuation of mass picketing, better organized than formerly, and demonstrations at the capital in Springfield against the use of the militia, is the next step necessary. —CARMODY.

Compensation Racket in New York

Under the State Compensation Law, every factory worker is entitled to free medical treatment if injured during the course of work. For this purpose "Workmen's Compensation Clinics" are located in every industrial district of New York. It ostensibly seems that this law is of the greatest benefit to the workers. But a careful scrutiny of the other end gives us an altogether different view of the affair. Since clinics are supervised by private doctors, and there are many, it is necessary to establish a clientele. Men are employed to canvass every factory within a considerable radius, and to install first aid kits, authorization slips and posters, conspicuously bearing the doctor's name and address. A number of years back, the doctors deemed it unnecessary to dispense with first aid paraphernalia, on the assumption that injured workers would apply self-treatment and so offer a serious factor in curtailing their much desired profits. The crisis, however, convinced the doctors that it was either a case of adapting themselves to new conditions or destruction was inevitable. It no longer was a question of workers treating themselves, but to secure their trade—at any cost. Now all factories are forced to maintain first-aid kits stocked to comply with the requirements of the Labor Department. In this case no alacrity was shown by the employers in purchasing kits and required supplies. No blow affects them so much as a blow at their pocket-book. It then was a matter of buying a kit or paying a fine. Money being involved in either case, the bosses found themselves between the devil and the deep sea. At this point the doctors graciously stepped in. The conditions for a completely supplied kit were not to use the contents but merely keep them to avoid fines—and "no matter how slight the workers' injuries may be, send them to the clinic for treatment." Unfortunately for the doctors, the crisis equally affected them as in other fields. Closed factories and few workers in the ones that remained open, promised the doctors no paunches from early retirement and easy living. Coupled with this, new doctors who in private practice found their patience exhausted for lack of patients, turned to this seemingly quick and easy method of reaping a harvest. Another factor, tending to aggravate this competitive malady, is medical graduates with an ever ready eye for immediate and lucrative incomes. Unduly large expenditures, in the form of paying men to visit factories, distribution of kits, supplies, cards and posters accorded them no promise in prospect to win the race for bread and butter. Consequently doctors instructed their men, upon visiting factories, that an appreciable decrease in expenses could be obtained by "eliminating" the other doctors. This "elimination" measure began quite innocently. It at first reduced itself to the tearing up of cards and posters advertising other doctors. Medical competitors responded to the same degree. Later on instructions and ethics were eliminated in the process of "elimination." At present competition has reached the point, where doctors organize crews to enter factories and pull their competitors' kits off the walls. Several men of the crew engage the boss in conversation in such a way that his back is to the kit, while the other half go about their business of either demolishing or stealing it. All stolen kits and first aid supplies are always relabelled with the victorious doctor's name and address. Inasmuch as the doctors find it impos-

The Murder of Andrew Ganis

SPRINGFIELD.—Andrew Ganis is the latest victim of the Illinois coal mine class war. Shot to death by a National Guardsman after being pointed out by a strikebreaker, as a militant member of the Progressive Miners of America. A double tragedy in the same family was but slightly averted. Mrs. Ganis was on the picket line at Taylorville and narrowly escaped death with a score of the other picketers, as the truck in which the National Guard were conveying them to the county line capsized, injuring a number of them. The funeral oration was delivered by Gerry Allard, editor of the Progressive Miner at Pawnee, in Sangamon County, as the authorities would not allow services to be held in Christian County where the murdered miner worked and lived. Comrade Allard told the assembled 15,000 miners that Andrew Ganis fell a victim of the class war; that the miners must stand united and retain the same militancy they have held since the fight began, and that shortly we will avenge our martyred dead. In the funeral procession there were 5,000 automobiles with four people in every car. The body was carried to Taylorville and laid to rest with George Franklin Bilyue, martyr of the Virden riots of 1898. Peabody and Lewis are attempting to exterminate the militants in the P. M. of A. Gunmen ambushed and wounded Pat Ansbury as he was returning from the funeral of Andrew Ganis, puncturing the front tires and shattering the windshield with gun fire. Ansbury managed to crawl from the car and escape through fields with bullet wounds in the neck. The coal barons, heartened by the unnecessary retreat of the new miners' un-

sible to rely wholly upon such methods, for a start, contracts are made with first aid supply firms of doubtful reputation. The latter concoct first aid supplies of the most inferior and often poisonous ingredients. An excellent illustration has been furnished in the recent past. One Sunshine, who sold mercurochrome and iodine to these clinics was arrested for selling poisoned antiseptics. Government chemists reported that guinea pigs died instantly upon injection. The purpose of these "antiseptics" is twofold. They are cheaper than the standard product, and chances are greatly in favor of having workers who treat themselves come for treatment, whether they like it or not, since infection usually follows the use of such "antiseptics". Another aspect of this racket is highly illuminating and equally interesting. The internecine struggle among doctors is waged with the factory as the arena. A constant source of trouble and worry to the bosses, and loss to the doctors, impels the latter to resort to more strategic tactics. Arrangements are made between doctors and insurance companies, "Supervisors of Compensation Claims", to lop off a sum of money due the doctor for services rendered the workers. For such substantial considerations, the supervisor sends letters to employers insured by his company, requesting them to "consider" the doctors mentioned. Angling for business from all sides, especially restaurants, is a much cherished practice. Owners of restaurants are given food-handlers' cards denied by the Board of Health, for sending "business" to certain doctors. At times the sanitary conditions in some of these restaurants place in obscurity the Augean stables.

It is a matter of common knowledge that treatment of cuts and bruises is prolonged to an almost unbelievable time. Since the doctors are paid a certain sum for every treatment, it is to their profit to prolong the treatment. If, for example, a worker cuts his finger, the doctors, very often ordinary laymen with white aprons, make it their business to stuff as much cotton in the wound as possible, so that the fibres constantly irritate the cut and healing takes three to five times longer. On top of this, plenty of adhesive plaster is used to prevent the air from drying or clotting the blood, thus preventing the early formation of a scab and a quick cure. The longer the treatment, the more money in the doctor's pockets and the more inconvenience for the workers. Sometimes the doctor is admonished for "jacking" up the bills. In this case the worker who is often entitled to compensation money is denied it through the efforts of the doctor to save the insurance company "unnecessary expenses."

Aside from the foregoing, the doctors also maintain their private practice. To supplement their already large earnings, these "healers" of mankind do a little work "on the side." Gangsters who have the poor taste to get in the way of police bullets patronize these doctors who possess a faculty to keep silent. Of course there are temporary slump periods. In such periods abortions are very profitable. Such are the reforms granted the worker by a benevolent bourgeoisie. Racketeers of the lowest type are only possible under capitalism: to seize every reform fought for by the workers and prey upon them in a varied form of exploitation. —J. R.

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Stalinists Expel Philly Militant

Phila., Oct. 11, 1932
To the Central Executive Committee;
To the District Executive Committee;
To the Party Members of Philadelphia.
Comrades:
I am of the opinion that it is necessary to speak out against the tacit sabotage of the Leninist policy of the united front. The rejection of this tactic holds the greatest danger for the international revolutionary movement, particularly in Germany. For maintaining this point of view the executive committee of Section 3 has at its latest meeting recommended my expulsion from the Communist party.
Is this to be the answer to Bolshevik criticism? Will this be our party's contribution to our brother German party? I take this occasion to explain my position on—(1) THE GERMAN SITUATION and (2) MY "FRATERNIZATION WITH TROTSKYITES." I appeal to all worker-Communists and to the D. E. C. to condemn the recommendation of the section committee.
How can we win the millions of workers who still support Social-Democracy? Leninist united front. We must unite with all Socialist workers and organizations in the fight against Fascism and thus make possible a successful proletarian revolution.
To speak of united front from below without approaching the organization which the workers still support means no united front but merely a routine recruiting campaign for the party. We must definitely speak out to the social-democracy and its leadership for a united front action against Fascism. Lenin said that we have nothing to fear in a united front with the Hendersons and Snowdens (Wels, Scheidemann, etc.—L. R.). He said if the Hendersons do not accept the united front on these conditions we have at once gained the sympathy of the masses and discredited the social reformists. If they do accept under these conditions (the right, to crit-

icize, separate entity of organization, NOT subservient amalgamation, etc.—L. R.) then we are the gainers.
We must say to these leaders, "If you want to fight Hitler, let us unite in a common struggle." To say, as does the party, that we do not unite with Social-Fascists, because they are "Social-Fascists", does not convince the Socialist workers. We must say in the words of Lenin—To unite with the Kerenskys, not because we believe in them, but because millions of workers still follow the Kerenskys (Russian Welses, Noskes, etc.).
2. On Fraternalization
To top all this the party prohibits comrades from discussing and studying this situation. I was recommended for expulsion for fraternizing with members of the Trotsky group (Left Opposition) and for discussing problems vital to the Communist movement.
For us Communists, international questions are as important as national. We must realize that Germany, the key to the international situation at the present moment, is the most important order on the international agenda. Since very little on this question is found in the party press I read the views of Leon Trotsky. After analyzing them and discussing them I came to the conclusion that Trotsky is correct on the question of the united front as expressed in his books, "Germany—the Key to the International Situation" and "What Next?—Vital Questions for the German Proletariat."
I place myself in complete solidarity in this respect with comrade Pappas' statement on the German question.
The life of the Soviet Union is in danger. The life of the Communist International is threatened with destruction. Why does the Communist International remain silent on the German question?
DEMAND AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE GERMAN SITUATION.
DEMAND THE CALLING OF THE SEVENTH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE C. I.
Long live our international party!
Comradely,
(Signed) Lou Roberts (Bob).

Archives of the Opposition

Trotsky's Letter to Olminsky

Two letters of Trotsky, one to Cheidze written in April 1913, very sharply attacking Lenin and seized at the time by the police department, were discovered in 1921. The old emigrants were well acquainted with the history of the factional fights and the little episodes that grew out of them. To them it was all a matter of the far distant past. Lenin must have merely smiled when Stalin (in all probability) slipped him the letter. But this does not cast the slightest shadow, nor could it, upon the relations between Lenin and Trotsky. Between the episodic letter written at a moment of acute factional struggle and the year 1921, when the letter, forgotten by the author, rose to the surface, stood the year 1917, with the October revolution, the following three years of civil war against a world of enemies, and the first year of common economic construction. Olminsky, who worked in the Institute of Party History, addressed to Trotsky a request for the publication of his letter to Cheidze. Behind this request must have been concealed an attempt at intrigue in which Olminsky was more the tool than the instigator. In view of the fact that later on Stalin made very extensive use of Trotsky's letter, circulating it without a date, as if it had been written in 1923, there is sufficient ground to assume that behind Olminsky's request stood Stalin: he always occupied himself with these matters with a particular relish. We consider it worth while to reprint here Trotsky's reply to Olminsky:
"Parlon my delay in replying. This week was a very busy one for me. You ask about the publication of my letter to Cheidze. I do not think that it would be in place. The time for history has not yet arrived. The letters were written under the impression of the moment and its needs, and the tone of the letters responded to them. The present-day reader will not understand this tone, will not establish the necessary historical corrections, and will only be confused. From abroad we are to receive the archives of the party and the foreign Marxian publications. In them is a large number of letters of all those who participated in the "scrap". Are you planning to publish them at the present time? This would create altogether unnecessary political complications for there are hardly two old emigrants in the party who did not sharply abuse each other in correspondence under the influence of the ideological struggle, momentary excitement, etc. Write explanations for my letters? But this would mean to relate wherein I differed at that time with the Bolsheviks. In the introduction to my brochure, 'Results and Perspectives', I speak briefly about it. I see no need of returning to the subject because of the accidental discovery of the letters in the archives. To this should be added that a retrospective review of the factional fight might give rise to polemics even today, because—I avow it frankly—I do not at all consider that in my disagreements with the Bolsheviks I was wrong on every point. I was wrong—and fundamentally—in my appraisal of the Menshevik faction, overestimating its revolutionary possibilities and hoping that we would succeed in isolating and nullifying its Right wing. This fundamental error, however, flowed from the fact that I approached both factions—the Bolshevik and the Menshevik—from the point of view of the ideas of the permanent revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat whereas the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks in that period supported the standpoint of the bourgeois revolution and the democratic republic. I considered that the differences between both factions were not very deep in principle and I hoped (this hope I expressed more than once in letters and speeches) that the very course of the revolution and the conquest of power by the working class would bring together the contending factions, which did occur up to a certain point in 1905. (The preface of comrade Lenin to Kautsky's articles on the motive forces of the Russian revolution and the whole line of the paper, Natchalo).
"I think that my evaluation of the motive forces of the revolution was indubitably correct, but the conclusions which I drew from it with regard to the two actions were undoubtedly wrong. Bolshevism alone assembled in its ranks, thanks to its irreconcilable line, the really revolutionary elements of the old intelligentsia as well as the advanced stratum of the working class. Only thanks to the fact that Bolshevism succeeded in creating this compact revolutionary organization, was it possible to make such a speedy turn from the revolutionary democratic to the revolutionary socialist position. Even now I could without difficulty divide my polemical articles against the Mensheviks and Bolsheviks into two categories: one, those devoted to an analysis of the internal forces of the revolution, its perspectives (the Polish theoretical organ of Rosa Luxemburg, the Neue Zeit), and the other, those devoted to an appraisal of the factions of the Russian Social Democrats, their struggles, etc. The articles of the first category I could present even now without corrections, because they fully and entirely coincide with the position of our party beginning with 1917. The articles of the second category are patently erroneous and it would not be worth while republishing them. The two letters sent me belong to the articles of the second category; their publication is not opportune. Let it be done by somebody about ten years from now, if there should be any interest in it.
"With Communist greetings,
December 6, 1921
"V. TROTSKY."

Fight in Illinois Sharpens
(Continued from page 1)
and imported gunmen are free to carry guns, knives and black-jacks.
The law permits picketing, permits organizing, but law or no law the coal operators find a way to do it brutally and thoroughly and even dispensing with formalities. In the Taylorville section during the last few weeks several scores of pickets and their wives have been wounded and one murdered, hundreds arrested under all kinds of excuses and restrictions imposed, others clubbed and tear-bomb gassed. Such is "democracy", such is "law and order" under the capitalist system.
Bosses Preparing for Winter
That the bosses of Illinois are preparing to take care of the workers in other cities this winter if they should decide to fight instead of starve, is made clear by the announcement of the commander in charge of the state militia in the Taylorville strike area when he said that "The change every week in companies is being made in order that the various units of the militia may gain experience in active duty."
Not only are the armed forces of the state government openly supporting Lewis, but the courts as well. Three militant miners, Joseph Colbert, Dominic Lauranti and Andrew Ganis have been cold-bloodedly murdered by a rain of bullets from the guns of the Lewis' gangsters and none of the gangsters that did the killings has been brought before the "bar of justice."
Just the other day, Circuit Judge Roy Dove of Shelbyville, sitting in the circuit court, upheld the right of the state militia to make arrests without warrants and hold the men and women so arrested any length of time they may see fit.
This "representative of justice" has shown by his own deed that there is no neutrality, no justice between capital and labor and places the judiciary of his state four square on the side of the coal operators and Lewis.
Lewis, of course, is able to use the courts, the state militia, the state police and the underworld not to maintain unionism but to destroy it, just as he did in Penn., Ky., West Va., Ohio, and other places. It is the Peabodys and the other coal-operators who will be masters if Lewis wins. But that is a long, long way to go.
State police, gangsters, courts and the state militia will not be able to impose again the Lewis leadership on the Illinois miners, and before this fight is finished there will not only be a complete defeat for Lewis, but the miners will be much nearer to a powerful Communist movement that will make it possible to uproot all these practices with which the labor fakers, in cooperation with gunmen, attempt to crush labor's organizations.
JOSEPH ANGELO
A HALF-YEAR SUB TO THE MILITANT IS \$1; WITH THREE OTHERS ON A CLUB PLAN BLANK IT IS ONLY \$50.
USE THE CLUB PLAN. GET SUBS FOR THE MINERS.
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